THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) (a) Production and sales turnover of HMT during these years are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Production	Sales
1983-84 . . .	307	323
1984-85 . . .	333	324
1985-86 . . .	383	374

*inclusive of excise duty.

(b) There has been improvement in productivity in terms of value added per employee during these years.

(c) One post of Executive Director and two posts of General Managers are vacant at present in HMT. Suitable internal arrangements have been made pending appointment of suitable incumbents on Regular basis.

Bipartite agreement in BHEL

1223. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the period of the bipartite agreement that was in force in BHEL has expired;

(b) whether the trade unions working in the said undertaking have submitted a joint memorandum regarding the need to initiate a discussion to come to a fresh bipartite agreement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) to (d) The bipartite wage agreement which was effective from 1.9.82 in BHEL expired on 31.8.86. Some of the unions have submitted a joint memorandum listing out their demands regarding revision of pay scales, D.A., H.R.A. and other allowances. The management would hold negotiations and finalise a new agreement keeping in view the guidelines of the Government.

Strike in Coal India Limited

1224. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased state:

(a) the number of incidents of strikes and lay offs in Coal India Limited, during 1985-86 and in the first half of 1986-87; and

(b) the loss of production in value due to the above incidents?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The number of incidents of strikes|lay offs in Coal India during 1985-86 was 105 and in the first half of 1986-87 it was 42.

(b) The loss of production during the respective period was 1,40,929 tonnes and 4,03,180 tonnes valued approximately at Rs. 296 lakhs and 847 lakhs, respectively.

Coal Production in the country

1225. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased state:

(a) the actual coal production in the country during the period April-October, 1986;

(b) the extnet of shortfall with reference to the target for this period; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken to achieve the targeted production for the year 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The Actual production of coal during the period April-October, 86 has been 82.52 million tonnes as against the target of 86.61 million tonnes indicating shortfall of 4.09 million tonnes.

(c) Apart from close monitoring of performance of coal companies, steps have

taken to ensure better utilisation of men and machinery by improvement in management, infrastructural facilities, expeditious completion of projects and better industrial relation etc.

Production of lignite

1226. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased state:

(a) the present level of production of lignite in the country and which are the industries using lignite as a fuel;

(b) the States where lignite is being mined at present; and

(c) whether smokeless domestic fuel can be made from lignite; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The production of lignite in the country during 1985-86 was 8.21 million tonnes. Lignite is used mainly for power generation. Other industries which use lignite are textiles, cement, tiles and ceramics.

(b) Lignite is being mined in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. Exploratory mining is being done in Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) Smokeless domestic fuel can be made from lignite. This is done by the process of pulverising and drying the lignite and processing it into briguettes Neyveli Lignite Corporation is manufacturing smokeless fuel from lignite which is marketed under the name 'Leco'.

Distribution of alcohol

1227. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for distribution of industrial alcohol among the potable sectors and chemical industry;

(b) whether there is any Central organisation to ensure that adequate quantities of industrial alcohol are made available to the chemical industries in preference to the potable sectors; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Industrial alcohol is generally denatured and is used for the manufacture of alcohol based chemicals only and not for potable use. While there are no specific guidelines for distribution of alcohol between the potable sector and chemical industry, the State Governments have been advised to strike a proper balance in this regard so that the requirements of, chemical industries are fully met.

(b) and (c) The Central Molasses Board comprising Excise Ministers of all States and senior officials of various Departments of the Central Government meets annually to look into, *inter-alia*, problems relating to alcohol-based industry and make suitable suggestions.

There is also a Working Committee of Central Molasses Board, which meets from time to time to review the position of releases and lifting of alcohol including the supply of alcohol for Chemical manufacturers.

Quantity of gas struck in Krishna Godavari Basin

1228. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of gas available in the Krishna Godavari Basin and the price asked for by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the gas struck in the basin;

(b) whether there are any difficulties in finding the buyers for this gas; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?